GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2312
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2008
PWD SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR NREGS
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Mediyam Dr. Babu Rao

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether real wages of regular women workers in rural areas has declined despite the ongoing National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce the gender bias and disparity in wage payments under the said scheme;

(c) whether the Government has directed the States to adopt Public Works Department (PWD) schedule of rates for works under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the State Governments in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. Under NREGA, wages are being paid on Task Rate Basis. The out turn of a worker is measured and wages are paid to the workers in accordance with the out turn norms fixed by the State Governments. NREGS is demand driven. Adult members of all rural households having job cards are entitled to get employment under the Act for doing unskilled manual work on demand subject to an over all ceiling of 100 days in a financial year. In para 6 of Schedule-II of the Act, it has been provided that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the Act. Para 34 of Schedule II of the Act also provides that in case of every employment under the scheme, there shall be no discrimination solely on the ground of gender and the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 shall be complied with.

(c): No, Sir. The directives issued in this regard to the States refer to the clarification that Schedule of rates (SORs) of various executing agencies for similar nature of activities and outputs in the same area must be same. States have also been asked to get these SORs notified by the competent authority of the State as SORs would have horizontal application across the departments/agencies.

(d): Do not arise.